



Natural Resources Conservation Service
6013 Lakeside Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46278

April 24, 2007

INDIANA BULLETIN NO. IN230-7-3

SUBJECT: EOP – Asian/Pacific Americans Heritage Month

Purpose: To inform the public about Asian/Pacific peoples Heritages and Contributions.

Expiration Date: September 30, 2007

May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. In June 1977, Representatives *Frank Horton* of New York and *Norman Y. Mineta* of California introduced House Resolution that called upon President to proclaim the first ten days of May as Asian/Pacific Heritage week. The following month, Senators *Daniel Inouye* and *Spark Matsunaga* introduced a similar bill in the Senate. Both bills were passed. On October 5, 1978, President *Jimmy Carter* signed a Joint Resolution designating the annual celebration. In May of 1990, the celebration was expanded further when President George H. W. Bush designated May to be Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the *transcontinental railroad* on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.

Asian/Pacific Americans represent many nations and ethnicities, each with its own culture, heritage, languages, and experience. Across our country, this group of people has excelled in all walks of life. Their talent and hard work have added to the success and prosperity of our nation and helped America be a leader in the world. They have helped shape America's character and identity through their strong values, love of family, and commitment to the community. America is especially grateful to the many Asian/Pacific Americans who have courageously answered the call to defend freedom as members of our Armed Forces. The sacrifices of these brave men and women help preserve the ideals of our country's founding and make the world a safer place (President *George W. Bush*).

The theme for the 2007 Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month is:

“Pursuing Excellence through Leadership, Diversity and Unity”

From early 1800s to the 21st century, Asian and Pacific peoples have played a vital role in the development of the United States and made lasting contributions in all elements of American Society.

DIST: 0

Our Asian/Pacific American Emphasis Program Manager has arranged a speaker for the commemoration of Asian Pacific Heritage Month. Everyone is invited to attend on May 7, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. in the conference room. The speaker is Mr. K. P. Singh who has received distinction as an architect, artist, and community figure.

If you have any questions about Asian/Pacific Heritage Month, please contact Asghar Chowdhery, NRCS AA/PI Emphasis Program Manager, at 317-290-3200 ext 374 or by e-mail at asghar.chowdhery@in.usda.gov.

/s/

JANE E. HARDISTY
State Conservationist